

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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**1. Name of Property**

=====

historic name Wierman, Benjamin House

other names/site number Lloyd, Gorman House; Snapp House; DHR File No. 085-0037-0003

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**2. Location**

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street & number 4049 Flat Rock Rd not for publication N/A

city or town Quicksburg vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Shenandoah code 171 zip code 22847

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**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Classification

=====

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <u>4</u>     | <u>0</u> buildings  |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u> sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u> structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u> objects    |
| <u>5</u>     | <u>0</u> Total      |

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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## 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>           | Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>                        |
| <u>DOMESTIC</u>                | <u>Secondary Structure: springhouse; meathouse</u> |
| <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE</u> | <u>Animal Facility: chicken house;</u>             |
| <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE</u> | <u>Agricultural outbuilding: horse barn</u>        |
| <u> </u>                       | <u> </u>   |

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>           | Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>                           |
| <u>DOMESTIC</u>                | <u>Secondary Structure: garden shed; storage shed</u> |
| <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE</u> | <u>Animal Facility: storage shed</u>                  |
| <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE</u> | <u>Agricultural outbuilding: horse barn site</u>      |
| <u> </u>                       | <u> </u>  |

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## 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| foundation | <u>STONE: Limestone</u>   |
| roof       | <u>METAL: Steel</u>       |
| walls      | <u>WOOD: Weatherboard</u> |
| other      | <u> </u>                  |

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1859 – 1947 (minor interior work done)

**Significant Dates** 1859, 1864

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.034 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1. 17/ 694843/4287571 2 17/695092/4287947 3 17/ 695005/4288007 4 17/ 694966/4287545

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Watkinson, owner

organization Shenandoah Restorations date 09/11/2007

street & number 4049 Flat Rock Rd telephone (540) 740-3083

city or town Quicksburg state VA zip code 22847

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Michael Watkinson

street & number 4049 Flat Rock Road telephone 540-740-3083

city or town Quicksburg state VA zip code 22847

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions,

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**Benjamin Wierman House  
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Benjamin Wierman House sits in its original location in the village of Moore's Store, Virginia, two miles west of Forestville in Shenandoah County, Virginia. It is a two-story, braced-frame structure built on top of a one-story cut limestone English-style basement. The 13.034-acre property has five contributing resources: the main house, a one-story frame springhouse with a loft, a small meat house, a frame chicken house, and a horse barn site, all of which date from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. The property is set on a slope facing Holman's Creek and the historically significant "Middle Road," which extends through the Shenandoah Valley. The main house is a simple Greek Revival-style I-house with subtle but elegant detailing. No additions have been affixed to the original structure and very few alterations have been made to the dwelling during its 150-year history. Throughout the twentieth century, the house has fallen into disrepair but is now in the process of sensitive restoration.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**MAIN HOUSE**

The foundation of the main house is constructed of finely chiseled limestone which is twenty-four inches wide. The dwelling is built into a hillside so that the north side is buried completely and the south side exposes a full English basement six-and-one-half feet high complete with a two-vertical-raised-paneled door and four six-over-three paned windows. For the purposes of this documentation, the south elevation will be considered the front of the house because this is believed to be the original intension.

A long set of new wooden steps lead up to a small front portico above the basement. The front door is wooden with two vertical raised panels topped by transom and sidelight surrounds, all of which have eight-inch by ten-inch lights. Flat pilasters flank either side. It is at this level that the frame, clad in weatherboard, portion of the house begins. This main section is a braced-frame construction built on sills of oak logs. The main timbers are locally sawn four-and-one-half inch by eight-foot pine members connected with pegged mortise and tenon joints and diagonally braced. The walls are in-filled with three-inch by four-and-one-half inch studs. The exterior of the walls are covered by cypress weatherboarding that is capped off at the top with a flat frieze on the north and south elevations indicative of the Greek Revival style. The north elevation also has a porch on the main level. This porch extends almost the full length of the house and is less formal than the front porch. Windows on the main level are double-hung, nine-over-six pane wooden sash. The upper level windows are double-hung, six-over-six pane, wooden sash. The only windows on the east and west elevations are six-paned hinged casement attic windows in the gables on either side of the chimneys. All are original and contain most of the original glass.

The roof is galvanized standing-seam metal, but shadow lines on the top surface of the rafters indicate that the original roof material may have been wooden shingles. They were probably replaced around 1880.

The two gable ends are bookended by massive cut limestone chimneys. Some individual rocks are over ten cubic feet and estimated to weigh nearly one ton. Each chimney is thirty-eight feet high, eight feet wide at the base, and contains two flues. The top ten feet of each is built of brick to accommodate a taper for the attic windows that would be impractical to make from stone.

The interior of the house is based on a hall-and-parlor plan but has an interesting Greek Revival-style characteristic that may be fairly unusual for a simple farmhouse. The proportions of the length and width of the house, as well as the proportions of each individual room, seem to be based on a mathematical proportion often used by the ancient Greeks called the Golden Section or Golden Ratio. This ratio is 1:1.618 and is expressed algebraically as  $(a + b) / a = a / b$ . Greek buildings such as the Parthenon and the Egyptian pyramids at Giza have used this as a design principle. It is also found naturally in human body proportions, plants, and most notably in seashells.

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The skilled builder of the Benjamin Wierman House may have been familiar with this design ratio for if you add the length (32' 11") and width (20'4") of the building and divide by the length, it is equal to dividing the length by the width, which is also equal to this ratio. The same can be applied to the proportions of each room in the house. A sketch accompanies this documentation that illustrates this relationship.

Upon entering through the front door on the main level, a central hall staircase divides the two large rooms (twenty feet and four inches long by twelve feet and six inches wide), which can be accessed on either side. The east room is the parlor and to the west is a kitchen that originally was probably a "sitting room" but according to oral history may have been a bedroom. At present, a woodstove in this room provides the only source of heat. The ceiling height on this level is nine feet and three inches. Upstairs, there is another large bedroom on the east side and two smaller bedrooms to the west, one of which has since been converted to the only bathroom. The basement was historically the kitchen and dining area of the house. Now it is used as a woodworking shop.

The interior walls have hand-split lath and are finished with flat plaster, though two rooms have since been covered with sheetrock, probably done circa 1960. The walls are plastered and one-and-one-half-inch-thick by ten-inch-wide baseboard exists in all rooms. On the main level, an unadorned chair rail exists in both rooms. Some of the woodwork appears to have the original paint exposed. Four of five original mantels still exist--one in the basement, two on the main level, and one in the eastern bedroom on the second floor. All are of wood construction with a plain frieze and pilasters but in slightly different designs. Floors are one-and-one-quarter-inch-thick heartwood pine of random widths measuring four inches to thirteen and one-half inches.

All doors are frame and have two vertical, raised panels. They are grain-painted with varying degrees of what appears to be a flame mahogany design. The door hardware is different on each level of the house. In the basement, common nineteenth-century thumb latches are used. On the main level, box locks with brown swirled, ceramic doorknobs are found. Upstairs an unusual latch-doorknob combination is found on what is now the bathroom door. The other doors are missing the original hardware, but evidence suggests that at one time they all matched the bathroom door latches. Rather than a thumb latch, a ceramic knob operates a lockable latch bar on both sides. The attic door has a thumb latch of a slightly different style than the basement quarters.

Another interesting detail is the three curved face stringers in each landing of the three-story staircase. They are curved but cut out of one piece of wood in such a way as to bend one-hundred-and-eighty degrees by folding into successive parallel v-notch grooves. The paint obscures the construction of this craftsmanship. This appears to be the work of a master craftsman that would have taken considerable time and skill to execute with hand tools available in the nineteenth century. Details such as this subtle and unnecessary joinery that transcends the utility of a staircase without ornamentation, along with the underlying proportions of the floor plan, make this house a valuable and elegant example of vernacular architecture with Greek Revival-style characteristics in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

**SPRINGHOUSE**

South of the main house towards Holman's Creek are two springs. Above the predominant one is a wood frame springhouse clad in weatherboard. It sits one hundred and twenty-five feet south of the main house and measures sixteen feet square. By the end of the twentieth century, this structure was in a state of serious disrepair. The roof had collapsed and the floors and framing had rotted. The sills have since been replaced, the framing repaired, a new standing-seam, metal roof has been added, windows were repaired, and the weatherboarding has been replaced with old siding from the main house and painted. The original design had a staircase on the western wall that led to a loft. Half of the loft has been rebuilt but is now accessed only by a ladder. The floor and water trough on the ground level have deteriorated. Today the building is used as a garden and green house area, and the loft is used to dry lumber. The north side of the roof has been replaced with standing-seam metal, but the south side is clear corrugated plastic that allows light to illuminate the formerly cool and dark space. Abutting the wooden structure to the west is a limestone well curb that surrounds the fountainhead. It is built upon three submerged logs and, at one time, had a protective

structure above its opening.

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Historically this building was used to store perishable foods, wash clothes, and clean dishes. The spring itself was obviously used as a fresh water source. The building once had a woodstove to heat water for laundry purposes. The date of construction is uncertain. The method of construction suggests that it was built around the same time as the main house. This spring is the only good natural spring in Moore's Store and was used communally for over one hundred years as a source for water.

**MEAT HOUSE/PRIVY**

The Meat House also dates to the mid-nineteenth century. It is situated forty-five feet east of the main house and measures twelve feet by ten feet. It is a wood frame and clapboard structure, similar to the other buildings, but it is differentiated by a front gable design. The door and gable face north. The roof also has no overhang on the gable ends, and the standing-seam, metal roof is simply folded over a rakeboard flush to the siding in the cornice. As would be expected of a meat curing and storage facility, the building has no windows. It is set off the ground on four locust posts.

Attached to the exterior of the east wall is the old outhouse. The facility is of the two-seat variety, and it appears to have no pit. The rustic facility measures five feet by three feet and served as the only toilet throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Of the three contributing resources, the meat house/privy is in the worst condition. The roof is rusty, the paint is peeling, and the floor is partially rotted. Today it is used for storage.

**CHICKEN HOUSE**

A multipurpose animal shelter and corral, referred to in this documentation as the "chicken house", sits along the western edge of the property. The date of construction is unknown, but the building appears to be early twentieth century. It is in poor condition and is currently used to store lumber.

**HORSE BARN SITE**

Along the eastern edge of the property, about one hundred feet north of the main house, is the site of an old horse barn. Oral history and photographic evidence reveal the building to have been in use in the late nineteenth century. The remnants of the structure are now of an archeological nature. Woods have grown up in an area that was once pastureland.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Benjamin Wierman House, located at 4049 Flat Rock Road in the village of Moore's Store in southern Shenandoah County, Virginia, is architecturally significant under Criterion C because it is an excellent example of a vernacular dwelling with late Greek Revival-style characteristics constructed just prior to the Civil War, around 1859. The house and outbuildings still retain much of their original fabric and have been altered only minimally since their construction. The unusual combination of surviving elements has helped to make the Benjamin Wierman house one of the best preserved vernacular Greek Revival-style houses in the Shenandoah Valley. It is rare to find a building from this time period that so closely reveals the original intention of the builder. The Benjamin Wierman House stands today as a clear illustration of how the complex cultural, social, and utilitarian aspects of nineteenth century rural Virginia can be represented architecturally. Additionally, it is associated with the early formation of a locally important archetypal 19<sup>th</sup>-century village community. Benjamin Wierman was the merchant at the general mercantile store in the village that bears its name, Moore's Store, and he was the postmaster. He was a veteran of the Confederate Army and married into the Moore Family that was the first English family to settle along this stretch of Holman's Creek in the 1750s.

**ARCHITECTURE**

In 1830, an influential New England architect, Asher Benjamin, published a book entitled *The Practical House Carpenter*. This handbook for carpenters and builders emphasized Greek orders and ideals. The book along with others inspired a new style of architecture that could be built by craftsmen not necessarily schooled in classical design.<sup>1</sup> Greek-Revival houses began to appear in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1830s. Though they were based on Grecian models, they were Americanized and represented a certain national identity for the budding democracy. They were built throughout the settled areas of the country. Greek Revival-style buildings can be identified by colonnaded porches, low-pitched gable roofs emphasized by a wide frieze, and sometimes accompanied by an architrave with front doors flanked by rectangular sidelights and topped by a transom. The interior usually boasts plain, unadorned mantels as well as door and window trim, and doors with two vertical panels.<sup>2</sup>

The Wierman House is approached today from a driveway that leads to what was historically the rear of the house. From this approach, the single-pile, two-story, three-bay, central hall dwelling appears to be a simple I-house, stylistically. Some Greek Revival-style elements can be observed such as: the nine-over-six lights on the first level and six-over-six lights on the second floor; two vertical-raised-paneled door; and the shallow pitched roof. However, the architectural style is more revealing on the façade of the house where the Greek Revival elements are more apparent such as the small colonnaded three-bay entry porch and the front door surround, flanked by sidelights and flat pilasters, and topped with a six-light transom. The building is exemplified by two exterior-end, brick and stone chimneys and an English basement.

The untouched nature of the house can best be appreciated on the interior. Because there have been no additions, the floor plan is exactly as it was in 1859. Much of the original plaster and woodwork is still intact. When it recently became necessary to repair the walls recently, the old plaster was ground up and reconstituted with lime to match the old. Even the names of Benjamin Wierman's children scribbled on the inside of the attic door can still be read. Some of the furniture, including a kitchen cupboard, a chair, and a bench are original to the house as well.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

Benjamin Wierman was born July 29, 1832 in Union Forge, Virginia. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Wierman who moved to Shenandoah County from Pennsylvania in 1808.<sup>3</sup> The 1850 census shows that Benjamin was living in Moore's Store with the family of Charles S. Wunder. Charles Wunder's wife, Elizabeth, had a younger sister named Catherine Moore. Benjamin courted Catherine and the two were married in 1857. Catherine's great-grandfather was Thomas Moore who purchased a Fairfax Proprietary grant from John Dobkins in 1753 upon which the village of Moore's Store was created.<sup>4</sup>



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In 1859, George A. Moore deeded about fifteen acres to Benjamin for the sum of \$600. By the 1860 census, Benjamin and Catherine were living in a house on this property with two young girls and a 10-year-old named Lydia O'Rourke. It is sometime in this three-year period, between March of 1857 and the time of the 1860 census, that it is believed that the house was built. Construction methods and patented door and window hardware seem to confirm this time period.

By 1860, Moore's Store was a progressive village. Thomas Moore's son, Joseph, built a gristmill along the creek prior to 1820 and when he died, he left it to his son George Moore. The village is named for George who built a brick house and established the first store. Charles Wunder entered the store as a clerk in 1828, and after George's death he became sole owner. In 1839, the first post office was established here with Wunder as postmaster. The store and the mill were the center of local agricultural commerce and established the foundation for a sizable pre-industrial community.<sup>5</sup>

Benjamin worked at the store of Charles Wunder until the Civil War began in 1861. He enlisted in Company B of the 97<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia on July 7, 1861 and again in 1862 with the 33<sup>rd</sup> VA Infantry under the command of Stonewall Jackson. He served until he was taken prisoner on April 6, 1865. Wierman took an oath of allegiance on June 21, 1865 in Point Lookout Prison and returned home shortly thereafter. He returned home to a community devastated by Union General Philip Sheridan's burning campaign throughout much of Shenandoah County in October 1864. His brother-in-law's gristmill, at least one house, and all the barns in the community were torched in this campaign. It may be in this period after the war that the meat house and possibly the springhouse were built.

Benjamin and Catherine had five additional children by 1871. Benjamin continued to work at the store and eventually became a partner. He assumed total control after Charles Wunder retired. Some old-timers still refer to the now abandoned store as the Wierman store. The Wiermans also raised chickens, pigs, and horses on the small farm, as well as tended a garden. At one time, there was a horse barn across a road that used to exist on the north side of the house. All that remains today is a pile of roof metal, a few stones, and a lot of broken glass. There were two chicken houses, one of which is still standing. The other chicken house was moved and was used as a residence for a short time.<sup>6</sup>

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Moore's Store had recovered well from the war. The gristmill was rebuilt but burned again in an 1870 foundry fire. It was immediately reconstructed. The community soon possessed a planer mill, two physicians, log schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, carriage shop, funeral home, harness shop, cobbler's shop, foundry, carding mill, furniture mill, and maple sugar factory.<sup>7</sup> Very little evidence of this bustling economy survives to this day. The atmosphere nowadays is that of a sleepy crossroads.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century was the heyday of the village. The Great Depression of the 1930s and the pressures of the industrial revolution rendered much of the local cottage industry obsolete. The automobile further contributed to the decline of the Moore's Store community, as it did rural villages everywhere. In 1933, George Armentrout who operated the gristmill at the time was killed in a dynamite accident trying to remove a stump. The mill has been quiet ever since.

The owners of the Wierman House have many photographs from the late Victorian period that were taken around the farm. Benjamin Wierman's youngest daughter Frances was an amateur photographer, and these photos were carefully saved by her daughter, Sallie Smith. Sallie spent much of her childhood at the farm with her grandfather, aunts, and cousins in the 1910s and 20s. She lived until 2005 and was a seminal resource for understanding the history of the house and farm. Few photographs of the main house survive but the people and outbuildings, as well as the farm animals, are well documented.

After Benjamin's death in 1918, the house was inherited by his daughter, Rosamond Snapp and her husband Robert Snapp who were living there at the time. "Bob" Snapp had one cow, chickens, and two horses and made his living mowing a small orchard in the summer with his two horses and a mower. In 1939, the house was inherited by their daughter Elizabeth. By this time the house was falling into disrepair.<sup>8</sup>

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In 1947 the house was deeded to Elizabeth's caretaker, Gorman Lloyd, for \$2,900. Gorman had only one leg and was, therefore, confined to a wheelchair. He lived exclusively in the basement so that he did not have to climb stairs. The basement also is the easiest space to heat in the winter and stays cool in the summer. It was Gorman Lloyd who made many of the "improvements" to the house. He had a cement floor poured over the dirt floored basement. He replaced the wooden back porch floor with concrete. Sheetrock was added in the basement and "sitting room" (now the kitchen), and electricity was added throughout. Gorman made his living growing strawberries and watermelons and providing tax services for local residents in the winter. He was also a locally respected fiddle player. In 1973, 1.298 acres, and again in 1976, another 0.214 acres were sold on the other side of Holman's Creek to Welden Riggleman. Gorman lived in the house with Edith Kerlin in his old age. He died in the late 1970s, and the house had little occupation for the next twenty years. Edith Kerlin inherited the property and deeded it to Barbara and Robert Shoemaker in 1982.

In 1999 the house was sold to Penn and Jeanne Watkinson of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, from Barbara Shoemaker. Jeanne Watkinson is the great-granddaughter of Benjamin Wierman. It is at this point that the house began a process of restoration and modernization. Their son Michael now owns the property and lives there with his wife Kelly.

**END NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf), 184.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf), 184.

<sup>3</sup> Lucia Kilby, Interview by Michael Watkinson. Sperryville, VA, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Floyd Wine, *Life Along Holman's Creek* (Boyce, VA, Carr Publishing Co, 1982), 37.

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, 38.

<sup>6</sup> Sallie Smith. Interview by Michael Watkinson. Edinburg, VA, 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Wine, 38.

<sup>8</sup> Riggleman, George. Interview by Michael C. Watkinson. Moore's Store, VA, 2007.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The 13.034-acre boundary is referenced as Tax Map 88, Parcel 74 on the "Boundary Survey of the Barbara L. & William R. Shoemaker Property" in the Lee Magisterial District in Shenandoah County, Virginia done in February 3, 1999 by Walsh Land Surveys Incorporated. This is the same parcel as referenced in Deed Book 444, Page 673.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is all that property currently owned, containing the historic house and secondary resources associated with it, at 4049 Flat Rock Road in the village of Moore's Store, Virginia.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS:**

All photographs are common to:

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Benjamin Wierman House

**LOCATION:** Shenandoah County, Virginia

**VDHR FILE NUMBER:** 085-0037-0003

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Michael Watkinson

**DATE:** September 20, 2007

**DIGITAL IMAGES STORED:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Photo 1 of 11

View: South Elevation, Main House

Photo 2 of 11

View: East Elevation, Main House

Photo 3 of 11

View: North Elevation, Main House

Photo 4 of 11

View: West Elevation, Main House

Photo 5 of 11

View: Main Level Interior, Present Day Kitchen, Mantle with Faux Grain

Photo 6 of 11

View: Second Floor Interior, Bathroom Door Hardware and Faux Grain

Photo 7 of 11

View: Interior, Stair Landing Detail

Photo 8 of 11

View: Interior, Front Hall

Photo 9 of 11

View: Spring House, North Elevation

Photo 10 of 11

View: Meat House/Privy, North Elevation

Photo 11 of 11

View: Chicken House, East Elevation

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